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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth, we praise You for being the faithful initiator and inspiration of prayer. We need not search for You, because You have found us; we need not ask for Your presence, because You already are impinging on our minds and hearts; we need not convince You of our concerns, because You know what we need even before we ask. What we do need are humble and receptive minds. Awe and wonder grip us as we realize that You want our attention and want to use us to accomplish Your plans for our Nation. We openly confess the inadequacy of our limited understanding. Infuse us with Your wisdom.

The week ahead is filled with crucial and controversial issues to be debated and decided. Reveal Your will for what is best for our Nation. We yield our minds to think, and then communicate, Your thoughts. Invade our attitudes with Your patience so that we will be able to work effectively with those who differ with us. Help us to listen to others as attentively as we want them to listen to us. In the midst of controversy keep us unified in the bond of our greater commitment to be servant-leaders of our Nation.

And as we press on with our work that You have given us to do, we commit to You the care of our loved ones and friends who need Your physical healing and Your spiritual strength. In Your holy name, Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Thank you, Mr. President.

We have morning business until 1 o'clock, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 1 o'clock, we resume consideration of S. 343, the regulatory reform bill. Under a previous order, Senator ABRAHAM will be recognized to offer an amendment on small business. At 3 o'clock, the Abraham amendment will be set aside so that Senator NUNN may offer an amendment with Senator COVERDELL regarding regulatory flexibility.

At 5:15, we begin two back-to-back votes—a vote on or in relation to the Abraham amendment, to be immediately followed by a vote on or in relation to the Nunn-Coverdell amendment. So there will be at least two rollcall votes today, and there could be further rollcall votes into the evening.

Let me indicate to my colleagues, this is Monday morning. This is a very important piece of legislation. It is controversial in some quarters. We hope to end up with a strong bipartisan bill. But I will alert my colleagues, we will have long days all this week, including Friday. So I do not want people expecting that on Friday there will be no votes or maybe be one vote at 11 o'clock in the morning. That can change if we complete action on this bill, but I doubt that will happen.

In addition, we were not able to complete action on the rescissions package before we left a week ago Friday. That bill will come up when there is an agreement without amendment to go to final passage.

I understand there may be some discussion of that later on today. It is a bill that saves about \$9.2 billion. It was

blocked by two of my colleagues before the recess. I hope that their concerns may be satisfied by the administration. I hope the administration can deal with our Democratic colleagues with reference to that bill.

It has many important items in the bill, including disaster relief for Oklahoma City, earthquake relief for California, and a number of other—in fact, there are some 30 States for which this bill includes some disaster money. So it is an important bill. It is one we should pass.

It also saves \$9.2 billion overall. It is very important that we pass that bill at the earliest possible time. I commend the White House for at least notifying the agencies not to spend any money that is not authorized in that rescissions bill. So that is a step in the right direction.

Now, if they can convince a couple of our colleagues to let us pass the bill, we could do that at any time today or tomorrow if an agreement is reached.

But I again indicate it is going to be a full week. We are already eating into the August recess. We have some “must” legislation we hope to complete between now and sometime in August. We will have a final schedule to all of our colleagues by the end of the week.

Mr. President, was leaders' time reserved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Yes, leaders' time was reserved.

DISTORTIONS OF REGULATORY REFORM BILL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, now that we have begun consideration of regulatory reform, the defenders of the status quo have settled on the weapon of last resort: fear. Thus, we have reporters and pundits pronouncing in strident tones “the rollback of 25 years of environmental protection,” the likelihood

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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